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### ***Kernan Announces Grants to Train 463 Workers at Three Northeastern Indiana Companies***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that three northern Indiana companies have been awarded training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund.

"We are proud to support the growth of LDM Technologies, Ottenweller Co. and Tokai Rika of Indiana by providing these grants" said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "We're committed to joining forces with companies like these that take the initiative to improve the skills of Indiana's workers."

- **LDM Technologies**, Kendallville, has been awarded a \$43,500 grant to retrain 201 incumbent employees as part of a \$280,000 investment in equipment upgrades. LDM Technologies began operations in 1985 designing and manufacturing interior and under-the-hood components for the auto industry. Today the company manufactures plastic injection molded air registers for Ford F series trucks, Expeditions and Focuses as well as Lincoln's Town Car and Navigator. LDM Technologies will use the grant to train employees in electronics, blueprint reading, hydraulics and computer skills.
- **Ottenweller Co., Inc.**, Fort Wayne, has been awarded a \$23,900 grant to train 119 existing and 19 new employees following the company's \$3 million investment in new equipment. Founded in 1915 as a blacksmith shop, the company extended its services to include fabrication, welding and trailer hitch installation in the 1950s. Ottenweller Co. will use the Commerce grant to train employees in welding, robotics and blueprint reading.
- **Tokai Rika of Indiana, Inc.**, Ashley, has been awarded a \$21,000 grant to train 18 new and 106 existing associates following the company's investment of \$4.3 million in new equipment and building upgrades. Incorporated in May of 1991, with full production beginning in August of 1992, Tokai Rika produces electronic switches for use in cars and trucks. Using the grant, employees will be trained in computer operations, team building and metrology.

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Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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